

Russell D. Peters and His Flower Garden in the Carbondale D&H Yard

By S. Robert Powell

Russell D. Peters worked as a switch tender in the Carbondale D&H marshalling yard in the period 1941/2-1947/8. He also established and maintained a flower garden in the Carbondale yard. He married Helen Vojick, who was a stenographer/vice president of the Carbondale First National Bank (where she worked with Betty Boland, Garth Buckley, Gert Buckley, and Marie Bear).

In 2015, Helen Vojick's brother, John J. Voick, age 94 (b. May 7, 1920, d. August 4, 2016, 44 Belmont Street, 570-282-2349) came up to the Carbondale Historical Society and gave to the Society three color negatives (4" x 5") of photographs of Russell D. Peters' flower garden in the D&H Carbondale Yard that were taken by "WM. J. NALLY / PHOTOGRAPHER / 100 GORDON AVE. / Carbondale, PA., Tel. 1593".

The three negatives were/are in a brown paper envelope on which is stamped, in the upper left corner: "WM. J. NALLY / PHOTOGRAPHER / 100 GORDON AVE. / Carbondale, PA., Tel. 1593". With technical assistance from Ken Atkinson (GRAFXPRESS DIGITAL STUDIOS, Scott Township, PA) electronic copies of those negatives were produced. Our thanks to Ken Atkinson for his technical expertise and assistance, which has made it possible for us to present those three photographs here.

Given on the following three pages are those three photographs of Russell Peters' flower garden in the Carbondale D&H Yard that were taken by the Carbondale photographer William J. Nally.



D&H Engine No. 1533, Heading North, in the Carbondale D&H Yard, with Russell D. Peters' Flower Garden in the Foreground



Russell D. Peters' Flower Garden (Delphiniums and Roses) in the Carbondale D&H Yard. View looking North



Russell D. Peters' Flower Garden (Zinnias, Roses, and White Picket Fence) in the Carbondale D&H Yard. View looking North

[The material presented here is also given in Volume XIV ("Carbondale Stations, Freight Houses, and the Carbondale Yard", pp. 131-134) by S. Robert Powell.]

Russell Peters and John J. Vojick

Russell Peters was a remarkable man whose vision of the world is awe-inspiring. The fact that he established and maintained a beautiful flower garden in the middle of a heavily industrial site such as the Carbondale D&H Yard tells us everything we need to know about the man. Without doubt, he surely was “one in a million”.

His brother-in-law, John J. Vojick, at age 94, clearly recognized what unbelievable treasures these three photographs are and, knowing that the end of his life was probably near at hand, made a special effort “to get into the right hands before his death” these wonderful photographs of Russell Peters’ flower garden in the Carbondale D&H Yard.

In this crazy, mixed-up, out-of-focus world in which we now live, it is very comforting and reassuring to know that such men as Russell Peters and John J. Vojick were once among us, here in Carbondale.

S. Robert Powell
February 2, 2022



In Loving Memory of John J. Vojick

*May 7, 1920
August 4, 2016*

Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one. I'd like
To leave an Afterglow of
Smiles when day is done.
I'd like to leave an echo...
Whispering softly down the
Ways of happy times and
Laughing times and bright
And sunny days. I'd like
The tears of those who
Grieve to dry before the
Sun of happy memories
That I leave behind when
Day is done.*

**Brennan & Brennan Funeral Home, Inc.
Carbondale, PA**